OPINION 1983 (Case 3134)

Rana cryptotis Boulenger, 1907 (currently *Tomopterna cryptotis*; Amphibia, Anura): specific name given precedence over that of *Chiromantis kachowskii* Nikolsky, 1900

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Amphibia; Anura; RANIDAE; *Chiromantis kachowskii*; *Tomopterna cryptotis*; burrowing frogs; sand frogs; Africa.

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary power the name *cryptotis* Boulenger, 1907, as published in the binomen *Rana cryptotis*, is hereby given precedence over the name *kachowskii* Nikolsky, 1900, as published in the binomen *Chiromantis kachowskii*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *cryptotis* Boulenger, 1907, as published in the binomen *Rana cryptotis*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *kachowskii* Nikolsky, 1900, as published in the binomen *Chiromantis kachowskii*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;

(b) *kachowskii* Nikolsky, 1900, as published in the binomen *Chiromantis kachowskii*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *cryptotis* Boulenger, 1907, as published in the binomen *Rana cryptotis*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

History of Case 3134

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Rana cryptotis* Boulenger, 1907 by giving it precedence over that of *Chiromantis kachowskii* Nikolsky, 1900 when the two are treated as synonyms was received from Dr Malcolm J. Largen (*Liverpool Museum, Liverpool, U.K.*) and Dr Leo J. Borkin (*Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, Russia*) on 26 February 1999. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **57**: 32–35 (March 2000). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2001 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN **57**: 34. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2001 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 18: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bock, Brothers, Calder, Cogger, Eschmeyer, Kerzhner, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys

Negative votes — 3: Bouchet, Lamas and Ng.

No votes were received from Dupuis and Song.

Ng commented: 'A change of name from *Tomopterna cryptotis* (Boulenger, 1907) to *T. kachowskii* (Nikolsky, 1900) would not appear to have a major impact on

non-taxonomists so I am reluctant to set aside priority in this case. Also, since there is every chance that this is a species-group which includes at least one or two cryptic species and both names may be needed (para. 6 of the application), a Commission ruling seems superfluous'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

cryptotis, *Rana*, Boulenger, 1907, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (7)**20**: 109.
kachowskii, *Chiromantis*, Nikolsky, 1900, *Annuaire du Musée Zoologique de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences de St Pétersbourg*, **5**(1–2): 246. [In Russian and Latin].